



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Worker Education and Training Program

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/home.htm>

Program Mandates:

Congress authorized the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) with the passage of Section 126 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. SARA established an assistance program for training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment and emergency response. Grant recipients are non-profit organizations with demonstrated access to appropriate worker populations and experience in implementing and operating worker health and safety education training programs.

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SARA provides for improvements in safety measures associated with remediation efforts through the WETP of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), an institute of the National Institutes of Health. The WETP receives direct funding for managing the HWWTP and the MWTP. The WETP was given responsibility for establishing and managing the BMWTP through Interagency Agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Program Descriptions:

- **Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP)** –provides model occupational safety and health training for workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal or containment or chemical emergency response.
- **Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP)** –focuses on delivering comprehensive training to disadvantaged urban youth in order to prepare them for employment in the construction and environmental cleanup fields.
- **Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP)** - broadens the MWT Program to provide comprehensive training to disadvantaged residents and to foster economic and environmental restoration to communities impacted by brownfields.
- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) E-Learning Program** - develops partnerships between current awardees and e-learning developers.

Program Accomplishments:

- The HWWTP has successfully supported twenty primary awardees representing over one hundred different institutions that have trained more than 1 million workers, and presented over 61,000 classroom and hands-on training courses that account for more than 16 million contact hours of actual training.
- The MWTP has successfully trained 2,628 young minority adults in worker health and safety for the construction and environmental cleanup fields resulting an overall job placement rate of 64%.
- Under the BMWTP, 1,860 workers have been successfully trained since 1998 with an overall job placement rate of 66%.
- SBIR E-Learning awardees have used supplemental funding to build upon E-learning products that support the training of skilled support personnel (SSP) involved in responses to WMD incidents.

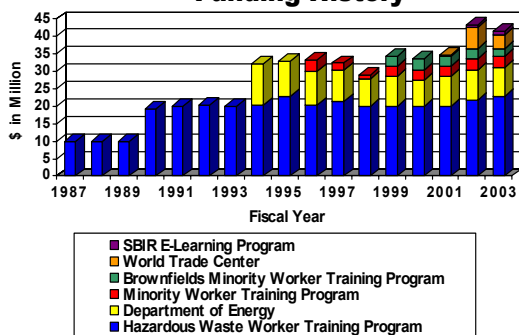
Emerging Issues/Future Directions:

- The WETP continues to build inter-institutional partnerships to address education and training activities related to worker safety and immediate and long-term health concerns in response to nationally significant disasters or terrorist attacks.
- The WETP is developing a national pool of workers trained to remediate buildings contaminated with biohazards such as anthrax and ricin, while using appropriate work practices and effective decontamination procedures.
- The WETP will continue to work with the EPA and other Federal, state and local partners to address Brownfields health and safety issues related to cleanup and training in support of rebuilding communities harmed by contaminated sites, disinvestment, and lack of adequate job training.

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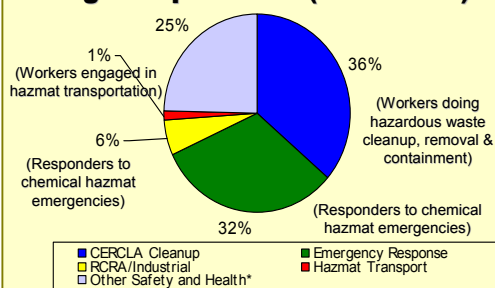
Funding History



Current Primary WETP Awardees:

- AFSCME Training and Education Institute
- Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union
- Center to Protect Workers' Rights
- Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
- George Meany Center for Labor Studies
- International Union, United Auto Workers
- Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute
- University of California at Los Angeles
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- International Chemical Workers Union Council
- University of Cincinnati
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund
- University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
- National Puerto Rican Forum
- Xavier University of Louisiana

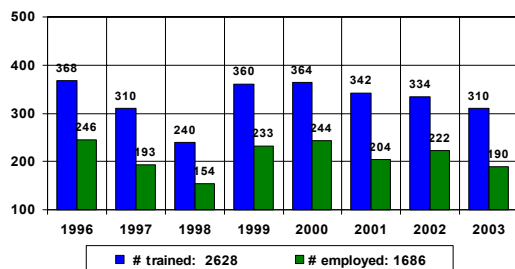
HWWTWP Workers Trained by Target Populations (2002-2003)



*Includes other S&H courses, asbestos and lead abatement, and radiation.

MWTP Job Placement Rates

(Overall Job Placement Rate – 64%)



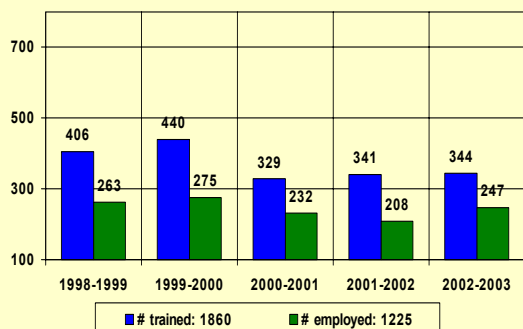
Communications Tools:

The NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training Newsbrief – The E-Newsbrief is a

free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, and OSHA. Current and past Newsbriefs can be viewed at: <http://www.wetp.org/wetp/index.cfm>.

BMWTP Job Placement Rates

(Overall Job Placement Rate – 66%)



Maintaining the Gold Standard for Hazardous Materials Training:

The Gold Standard in training means developing and delivering training events of the highest quality possible, using the most advanced adult educational materials, exercises and techniques; items that are reviewed and evaluated by technical experts; that are kept up-to-date or "evergreen;" and that are carried out in appropriate learning environments with appropriate student/teacher ratios. NIEHS and its awardees are committed to maintaining this high standard because it saves lives and prevents injuries.